CLAIMS:

1.   A method of enabling a user of a computing device to transport session information from one computing device to another, the method comprising:

connecting a computing device to an external storage device on which is stored session information, said session information including the user's files, a list of the files remaining opened at the end of the prior session, and a list of applications expected and previously used by the user;

retrieving said session information from said external storage device; and

enabling said computing device user to open at least one of said files on said list of files remaining opened upon initiation of a new user session.

2.   The method of claim 1 including a step of storing on said device the session information from the current session at the end of the user session.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein said method includes a step of copying files from said storage device to said computing device; said method including a step of deleting said files from said computing device after they have been copied back to said storage device.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein said external storage device is a removable storage device which is connectable to said computing device;.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein said external storage device is a remote computing device on a network; said step of retrieving session information from said device comprising communicating with said remote

-30-

computing device over said network.

6. The method of claim 1 further including:

retrieving personalized setting information which had been previously stored on said external storage device, said personalized setting information including one or more of the following: computing device display background settings, computing device display color preferences, icons and location of the icons on a computing device display, audio settings within the computing device, volume setting, computing device display font settings, computing device printing preferences, and a list of applications found installed on the computing device to which the user has access; and

implementing the personalized settings on the computing device.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said method includes storing the settings of said computing device prior to, or upon, the initiation of a use session; and, at the end of the use session, restoring said computing device to the settings existing prior to initiation of the use session.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein said method includes storing any changes in the personalized setting information on the storage device at the end of a use session.

9. A method of enabling a user of a computing device to transport personalized computing device settings from one computing device to another, the method comprising:

connecting a computing device to an external storage device on which is stored personalized computing device setting information has been

stored; said personalized setting information including one or more of the following: computing device display background settings, computing device display color preferences, icons and location of the icons on a computing device display, audio settings within the computing device, volume setting, computing device display font settings, computing device printing preferences, and a list of applications found installed on the computing device to which the user has access;

retrieving personalized setting information which had been previously stored on said external storage device; and

implementing the personalized settings on the computing device.

10.   The method of claim 9 wherein said external storage device is a removable storage device which is connectable to said computing device.

11.   The method of claim 9 wherein said external storage device is a remote computing device on a network; said step of retrieving session information from said device comprising communicating with said remote computing device over said network.

12.   The method of claim 9 wherein said method includes storing the settings of said computing device prior to, or upon, the initiation of a use session; and, at the end of the use session, restoring said computing device to the settings existing prior to initiation of the use session.

13.   The method of claim 9 wherein said method includes storing any changes in the personalized setting information on the storage device at the end of a use session.

-32-

14.   A software program embodied in a machine readable media and being capable of being operated on a computing device, the computing device comprising a display, a storage device, an input device, and a memory device; the software program being operable to adjust the settings of the computing device and to make available to the user files from a prior session at a different computing device, the program comprising:

means for retrieving personalized setting information which had been previously stored on a storage device removably connectable to the computing device of a current session, said personalized setting information including one or more of the following: computing device display background settings, computing device display color preferences, icons and location of the icons on the computing device display, audio settings, volume settings, computing device display font settings, printing preferences, and a list of applications installed on the computing device to which the user has access;

means for retrieving session information of a prior session from the external storage device, said session information including the user's files, and a list of the files remaining opened at the end of the prior session;

means for implementing said personalized computing device settings; and

means for opening applications and/or files listed in said prior session information as having been opened at the end of the prior session.

15.   The software program of claim 14 including means for storing the settings of the current computing device prior to initiation of a user session and means for returning said current computing device to said settings at the end of a

user session.

16.   The software program of claim 14 including means for removing any of said user's files from said computing device at the end of a session.

17.   The software program of claim 14 including means for loading said user's files from said external storage device to said computing device at the beginning of a user session.

18.   The software program of claim 14 including means for loading the personalized computing device settings to said external storage device at the end of a user session.

19. The software program of claim 14 including means for marking selected files on said computing device or on a network to which said computing device is connected as being 'checked out'.

20.   The software program of claim 19 wherein said means for marking said selected files as "checked out" files comprising marking said files as being "protected".

21.   The software program of claim 19 including means for releasing said 'checked out' files to enable others to access and modify said files.

22.   The software program of claim 21 including means for synchronizing the "checked out" files with corresponding files on the computing device or the network to which said computing device is connected.

23. The software program of claim 14 including means for periodically saving the user's data to the external storage device.

24.   The software program of claim 23 wherein said means for

-34-

periodically saving comprises means for saving changes to a user's data files within a cache memory area on the external storage device.

25.   The software program of claim 14 including means for verifying the authenticity of the external storage device.

26.   The software program of claim 25 wherein said verifying means comprises a data file on said external storage device; and means for said program to process said data file.